

DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW RABBIT FROM THE LIU KIU ISLANDS AND A
NEW FLYING SQUIRREL FROM BORNEO.

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Several mammals collected in the East Indies and adjacent islands have recently been submitted to me for examination for the Wistar Institute of Anatomy.

Two of these prove to be of exceptional interest and are, so far as I can ascertain, undescribed.

The first is a rabbit obtained on the Liu Kiu Islands by Dr. W. H. Furness and Dr. H. M. Hiller, February 26, 1896.

It would naturally be expected that a rabbit from this locality would prove to be allied to the Japanese *Lepus brachyurus*, but curiously enough the two specimens before me represent a species of the genus *Caprolagus*, and are apparently nearest to *C. hispidus* of Assam.

The larger of the two specimens may be regarded as the type (No. 5,314, collection Wistar Institute) of a new species which I propose to name in honor of its discoverer.

Caprolagus furnessi n. sp.

Size approximately that of *Lepus americanus*. Hind foot, tail and ears remarkably short, claws very large and strong, nearly straight on the fore feet, decidedly curved on the hind feet.

Color very dark for a rabbit. Soft under-fur plumbeous, long hair coarse and hispid, brownish black, many with buff annulations or tips, becoming mahogany on the rump and brighter yellowish brown on the feet (except about the base of claws) and tail. The long hairs on both tail and feet retain their bristly character. From the hind neck to the beginning of the mahogany shade on the rump there is a jet-black longitudinal band. Under parts with stiff hairs fewer and mostly pale buff, the gray under-fur more prominent, giving a general plumbeous hue to the pelage.

The cranial characters agree pretty closely with those of *Caprolagus hispidus* as described and figured by Blyth.¹

Skull strong and solid, incisive foramina short and narrow (length 18 mm.), terminating fully 3 mm. anterior to the anterior margin of alveolus of first premolar. Bony palate correspondingly produced fully as long as broad (length 12.5 mm.). Bony network over the anteorbital foramina entirely coalesced and solid. Nasals very broad and solid, line of juncture with frontals exactly opposite anterior margin of orbit and on line with posterior edge of second premolar. Supraoccipital process very short with no anterior projection, the usual notch in front of it being entirely absent; frontals scarcely constricted, the width behind supraorbital processes being equal to the interorbital width (20 mm.).

Teeth strong and heavy, and no trace whatever of the small posterior upper molar.

In the lower jaw the anterior extension of the mandibles supporting the incisors is somewhat slender, and there is a distinct hump or bulge in the lower contour just anterior to the first premolar.

The measurements of this specimen are as follows:

Total length of flat skin,	550 mm.
Ear,	42 mm.
Hind foot,	97 mm.
Tail vertebrae (approximate),	8 mm.
Length of whiskers,	50 to 65 mm.
Length of skull (occipito-nasal),	88 mm.
Zygomatic breadth (minimum),	40 mm.
Interorbital breadth,	20 mm.
Length of nasals,	31 mm.
Length of upper molar series (alveoli),	15 mm.

Another example (No. 5,315, Wistar Inst. Coll.) is apparently smaller and has the mahogany tints suffused over the whole back, with many of the hairs on the sides and shoulders light yellowish brown, giving it a much brighter richer coloration. The black dorsal stripe in this specimen is not quite so pronounced.

With only the skins and skull at my disposal, I am unable to describe the clavicles in this interesting animal, but from the many

¹ *Journal Asiatic Society of Bengal*, XIV, p. 247.

other peculiarities exhibited by it I regard the genus *Caprolagus* as established by Blyth in 1845 as quite worthy of recognition.

In 1896 Dr. Merriam established the genus *Romerolagus*² for a peculiar little rabbit from Mt. Popocatepetl, Mexico, many of the characters being parallel to those of *Caprolagus* as described by Blyth fifty years before. While in no way questioning the validity of *Romerolagus*, we must take exception to Dr. Merriam's statement that "Heretofore the genus *Lepus* has enjoyed the distinction of coincidence in characters with the family to which it belongs." Flower and Lydekker also seem to have totally overlooked *Caprolagus* in making their diagnosis of the family *Leporidae*. The family characters must certainly be modified and we must recognize three distinct genera:

Lepus ;

Caprolagus Blyth, 1845;

Romerolagus Merriam, 1896.

Three species of *Caprolagus* are now known:

C. hispidus (Pearson), *Bengal Sporting Magazine*, August, 1843, p. 131 (*vide* Blyth).

C. netscheri (Schlegel), *Notes Leyden Mus.*, February, 1880, p. 59;

C. furnessi Stone, *antea*.

The other apparent nondescript in the Wistar Institute collection is a flying squirrel obtained by Messrs. Alfred Harrison, Jr., and H. M. Hiller on the Menbuang river, Sarawak, Borneo, January, 1898 (No. 5,298).

Notwithstanding the numerous species of *Sciuropterus* that have been described from this region the present specimen seems to differ from all, so far as I can judge from the descriptions, though lack of material for comparison is much to be regretted.

This species is dedicated to Mr. Harrison, whose researches in Borneo have resulted in most valuable zoölogical collections.

Sciuropterus harrisoni n. sp.

Size and general appearance similar to *S. horsfieldi*, *S. thomsoni*, etc., but distinguished at once by the uniform dull brown of the tail on both the upper and under surfaces.

² *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, Vol. X, pp. 169-174.

The general appearance above is bright rusty red, darker and more inclined to chestnut than in *S. davisoni*.³ This color extends from the nose to the root of the tail, the dark blackish plumbeous bases to the hair everywhere show through, the rust color being confined to the tips. The sides of the face are paler and there is a black ring around the eye. Flight membranes black, the hairs tipped with white or very pale buff, passing gradually into the rusty color as they approach the body, outer edge of the membranes white. Ears triangular, with a sparse covering of black hairs on the outside. Feet with scattered blackish hairs. Lower surface dull white; cheeks, throat and sides of abdomen tinged with rufous. Under side of membranes dull blackish with pale rufous tips to the hairs.

Tail pale buff or fawn color at the base, below; otherwise entirely uniform dull brown above and below; decidedly distichous and tapering somewhat from root to tip. "Whiskers" long—50 to 70 mm.; one or two short cheek bristles, no tufts at base of ears. Incisors orange.

Length of skin,	360 mm.
Length of tail,	170 mm.
Hind foot,	30 mm.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the collectors and to Dr. Horace Jayne, Director of the Wistar Institute, for the privilege of examining these specimens.

³ Figured in *P. Z. S.*, 1886, Pl. VI.